

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /070 W

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R 051255Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6357

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0303

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, BC, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICAN/ARAB COOPERATION

REF: GABORONE 0946(JULY 15, 1974); GABORONE 277

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE BRIEFED ME ON THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE ARAB LEAGUE. MOGWE SAID THE ARAB LEAGUE PRESENTED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI FOR APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL. THE ARAB DRAFT WAS DISTRIBUTED BY ETEKI WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING COMMENTS BY THE OAU SECRETARIAT.

2. MOGWE NOTED THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON AFRICAN/ARAB COOPERATION HAD EARLIER BEEN APPROVED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE PREAMBLE TO THE AGREEMENT NOTES
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THE COMMON OBJECTIVES OF THE OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE, INCLUDING

COORDINATION AND INTENSIFICATION OF COOPERATION FOR LIBERATION OF THEIR LAND, DEFENDING SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND ENSURING BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR PEOPLES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT CALLS ON THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE OAU TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE COMMON OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING THE COORDINATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION FOR AFRICAN AND ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

3. MOGWE MADE IT CLEAR THAT BOTSWANA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER AFRICAN ANGLOPHONE STATES WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE WAY ETEKI HANDLED THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AT THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. BOTSWANA ARGUED THAT IT WAS IRREGULAR FOR ETEKI TO DISTRIBUTE THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE COMMENTS OF THE OAU SECRETARIAT. AS A RESULT OF THE INTERVENTION OF BOTSWANA AND OTHER ANGLOPHONE STATES, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE OAU SECRETARIAT WOULD FIRST STUDY THE ARAB LEAGUE DRAFT. IT WOULD THEN BE SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE B FOR CONSIDERATION BY AN AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARCH. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING THE OAU SPECIAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING TO BE HELD IN APRIL ON DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE DOCUMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN KAMPALA.

4. BOTSWANA OFFICIALS FULLY EXPECT SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT ON AFRICAN/ARAB COOPERATION TO BE FINALIZED AND SIGNED AT AN AFRICAN/ARAB SUMMIT MEETING TO BE HELD DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1975.
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